

Physiological and Biochemical Basis for Perinatal Medicine

Edited by M. Monset-Couchard and A. Minkowski
S. Karger; Basel, New York, Sydney, 1981
xiv + 370 pages. DM 187.00, SFr. 156.00, \$93.50

This volume records the first international meeting of the Samuel Z. Levine Conference, held in Paris in 1979. There are 36 separate contributions to this volume covering various aspects of perinatal physiology and biochemistry. The book is divided into 13 sections each concerned with an aspect of foetal or neonatal development and each section is followed by a separate discussion.

Overall the book contains a considerable quantity of fact and opinion and is certainly a valuable addition to the library of anyone concerned with developmental biology. The scope of the combined contributions is sufficiently broad so as to interest both the basic scientist and the clinician equally.

Individually the contributions are not evenly bal-

anced. The sections on renal physiology, foetal circulation and parturition contain only a single paper each, a situation which cannot genuinely reflect worldwide interest in these particular areas or their relative importance. Other areas such as metabolism/nutrition, thermoregulation, enzyme development and the nervous system attract the larger number of contributions and are on the whole covered well and with originality. One or two contributions leave the reader disappointed largely due to their brevity and almost total lack of numerical data.

In all the volume is to be recommended to all concerned with the research, teaching and application of developmental science.

D. J. Begley

BOOKLIST No 33 October 1981

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